Distance Learning

Distance education is growing with such speed that those who are responsible for course delivery are often overwhelmed. The distance learning environment is different from the traditional classroom and requires different technologies to enhance effectives teaching. This technologies are organised into three areas; Phone, Computer and interactive video.

Telephone Technology:

Telephone technology is one of the simplest, most cost effective distance learning technologies with user friendly equipment, you can access distance learning experience, interact with experts, receive information updates and share idea with almost anyone, anywhere. The audio component of a distance learning system can be as simple as a phone and as complex as a system of microphones, cabling, audio mixers and echo cancelling equipment. Audio is among the most critical components of a system to ensure effective interactive communication.

Audio Conferencing:

The devices used for audio conferencing range from individual telephone specially designed room system that include speakers, microphones, and equipment to mix the sound. Audio conferences can be used for a variety of applications including meetings, the delivery of courses and training, and for guest lecturers in any kind of classroom.

Computer Based Training:

Computer based training is typically self-paced instruction that learners access from desktop computer, the training materials might be installed on the local computer, CD-ROM, laserdisc or accessed from a computer network.

Electronic Mail:

Electronic mail allows learners and instructors to communicate across time and distance using typed messages sent over both local and global networks.

On-Line Classes:

On-line classes are the type of course where lectures, readings and assignment are posted on computer bulletin boards and student’s access and download the course materials.

Computer Conferencing:

Computer conferencing can be real time “chat” where student’s converse by typing on the keyboard or where communications are posted to electronic discussion groups called bulletin boards. The combination of the telephone and the computer creates a distance learning application called audio graphics where students can interact with visual presentations and audio conference at the same time. Applications using audio graphics can range from one time training exercises to semester long academic course work. Each site is equipped with speakerphone, computer and software, modem and optional devices like mouse, graphics tablet, scanner and camera.

Video Technology:

The ability for instructors and students to see and hear one another brings new levels of interaction to the distance learning experience. Distance learning applications using video technology fall into two general categories, one-way broadcast and two-way interactive.